

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Response, claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 will remain pending in the application. Claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 will be amended, and claims 1-6, 9-11 and 14 will be cancelled. Entry of the present Response, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vercellotti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,266,925). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Upon entry of the present Response, claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 will be rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims and the intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 12, as currently amended, recite methods for multi-reading a plurality of IDs by which an interrogator and multiple transponders repeat queries and responses there-between. The methods include, inter alia, specifying, by the interrogator, a first read range of IDs in a first query, and transmitting, by the interrogator, a second query specifying a second read range of IDs. The first and second read ranges are specified by one of a start value and an end value, and an exponent value which sets a size of a read range of IDs. An end value E of a read range is calculated by the formula $E=S+2^e-1$ when the read range is specified by a start value S of the read range and an exponent value e.

Claims 8 and 13, as currently amended, recites methods for multi-reading a plurality of IDs by which an interrogator and multiple transponders repeat queries and

responses there-between. The methods include, inter alia, specifying, by the interrogator, a first read range of IDs in a first query, and transmitting, by the interrogator, a second query specifying a second read range of IDs. The first and second read ranges are specified by one of a start value and an end value. A start value S of a read range is calculated by the formula $S=E-2^e+1$, when the read range is specified by an end value E of the read range and an exponent value e.

Vercellotti et al. discloses an electronic identification tag interrogation method in which an interrogator 26 sends a request for electronic identification tags 28 to reply to the interrogator 26 if their tag identification numbers are greater than a requested address sent by the interrogator 26. See, e.g., col. 3, lines 42-49.

Applicants respectfully submit that in Vercellotti's interrogation method, a read range of tag identification numbers is not specified by one of a start value and an end value, and an exponent value which sets a size of a read range of tag identification numbers. Applicants submit that there is no calculation of an end value E of a read range using the formula $E=S+2^e-1$ when the read range is specified by a start value S of the read range and an exponent value e, and no calculation of a start value S of a read range using the formula $S=E-2^e+1$, when the read range is specified by an end value E of the read range and an exponent value e.

Rather, in Vercellotti's interrogation method, the interrogator 26 merely sends an interrogation address A, and an electronic tag 28 replies if its tag identification number is greater than the interrogation address A. See col. 3, lines 42-63 of Vercellotti et al.

Applicants note that the Examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 in the Final Office. However, the Examiner did not address the recited features of specifying the read

ranges by one of a start value and an end value, *and an exponent value which sets a size of a read range of IDs, where an end value E of a read range is calculated by the formula $E=S+2^e-1$ when the read range is specified by a start value S of the read range and an exponent value e, and a start value S of a read range is calculated by the formula $S=E-2^e+1$ when the read range is specified by an end value E of the read range and an exponent value e.* Applicants respectfully submit that these features are not disclosed by Vercellotti et al., and submit that the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Thus, Applicants submit that Vercellotti et al. fails to disclose or suggest a method for multi-reading a plurality of IDs by which an interrogator and multiple transponders repeat queries and responses there-between, which includes specifying, by the interrogator, a first read range of IDs in a first query, and transmitting, by the interrogator, a second query specifying a second read range of IDs, where the first and second read ranges are specified by one of a start value and an end value, and an exponent value which sets a size of a read range of IDs, and an end value E of a read range is calculated by the formula $E=S+2^e-1$ when the read range is specified by a start value S of the read range and an exponent value e, as recited in amended claims 7 and 12.

Applicants also submit that Vercellotti et al. fails to disclose or suggest a method for multi-reading a plurality of IDs by which an interrogator and multiple transponders repeat queries and responses there-between, which includes specifying, by the interrogator, a first read range of IDs in a first query, and transmitting, by the interrogator, a second query specifying a second read range of IDs, where the first and second read ranges are specified by one of a start value and an end value, and an exponent value

which sets a size of a read range of IDs, and a start value S of a read range is calculated by the formula $S=E-2^e+1$, when the read range is specified by an end value E of the read range and an exponent value e, as recited in amended claims 8 and 13.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions recited in Applicants' amended claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 are not obvious in view of the teachings of Vercellotti et al., and thus, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow these claims.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants recognize that the current status of the present application is after-Final. However, Applicants submit that entry of the present Response is proper under the current circumstances, as the present Response does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. In this regard, the amendments in the present Response merely rewrite claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 in independent form and cancel the remaining claims.

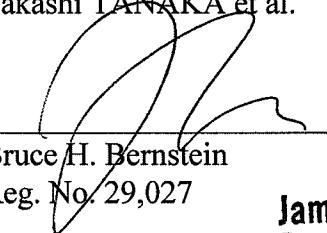
Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so.

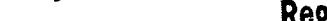
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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